

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XVIII — Number One

September/October 2007

19TH ANNUAL RALLY DAY: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

Take part in this East Montpelier tradition! Come to the Elementary School, stop by our **Information Table** to volunteer, and enjoy a **Pancake Breakfast**.

Then design or sew an 8" x 8" square for the **Town Quilt Project**. One block will represent East Montpelier in the statewide quilt project. Others will become a town quilt. Create your square ahead or design one at Rally Day. (No sewing required!)

Kids love **Veggie Decorating**, so donate your monster zucchinis to become masterpieces. For **Fire Department Fun**, put on the gear, climb into the trucks, and learn about fire prevention. There will be a **Toddler Play Area** for our youngest citizens.

Enter two dozen of your homemade cookies into our **Cookie Contest**. For dessert with lunch, sample the competition and vote for your favorite. We'll publish the winner's recipe in a future issue of the *Signpost*—unless it's a family secret!

Stop by the gym to see the Historical Society's display on **Walter J. Coates**, and

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VISIONS OF EAST MONTPELIER IN 2027

Residents Imagine East Montpelier in 2027

In the last issue of the *Signpost*, readers were asked to share their visions for East Montpelier 20 years from now. What follows are the many thoughtful, sometimes humorous replies to that request. Twenty years ago, a similar conversation was had, and resulted in the creation of Rally Day and our free town newsletter. Who knows? Perhaps there will be another gathering of this community that will make some of these dreams come true.

David A. Coburn: Thoughts on East Montpelier's future

Higgledy, piggledy, my black hen, she can't live in the Relative When. She must live in the Absolute Now, because she cannot postulate how.

This bit of doggerel often runs through my mind when I observe the reaction of many people to proposals for change. As a person whose professional life was spent in the field of planning and whose avocation is the study of history, I have long since accepted the truth of the saying that "change is the only real constant".

The town my great, great grandfather Larned Coburn came to live in 1812 was vastly different than the one in which we live now. The town in 2020 will be different from the one we live in today. I will not be here to experience it, in all probability, but it will be different.

Therefore, my vision for what the town might be is a place where people are willing to entertain proposals for change with an open mind. One should take a critical view of significant changes but should also remember that even if they appear to be to your detriment in the short run, they might very well benefit many others and continue do so long after you are gone.



Dave Coburn

Continued on Page 3

Terry Allen: Photography
229-0303 tallen@igc.org

Katherine Blow: Mailing
476-6021 bluequartz@aol.com

Catherine Buni: Copy Editor
229-1851 cbuni@yahoo.com

Charlie Catlin: Records Editor
229-4273 shcharlie@hotmail.com

Rhoda Chickering: Feature Editor
229-5005 rhoderchick@verizon.net

Rob Chickering: Business Manager
229-5005 peacemaker8@verizon.net

Ellen Knoedler: EMES Reporter
223-6931 eknoedler@u32.org

Lori Martin: Layout/Design
223-7970 lorianne.m@comcast.net

Carol McKenna: Copy Editor
229-6001 cmckenna1000@yahoo.com

Eddie Miller: Organizations Editor
229-0677 signposteam@comcast.net

Barbara Ploof: Copy Editor
223-6934 theploofs@hotmail.com

Cherie Staples: Copy Editor
476-2541 skyearth1@aol.com

Wendy Soliday: Artist
229-9594 wsoliday@aol.com

Sylvia Tosi: Town Records
223-3240 dontsylv@comcast.net

EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

Published six times a year.
Mailed free of
charge to all residents of
East Montpelier.

PO Box 184
East Montpelier, VT 05651

TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

“The Past Is Prologue”

This ancient Greek saying may well be the text for any consideration of the long forward view of our town for the decades ahead.

Our town has a good record of community involvement in dealing with issues. Twenty years ago the town needed to work on a new town plan. The Planning Commission asked for public input. In my mind's eye, I can still see the school gym with over a hundred of our citizens buzzing about. When the chairman called the meeting to order, the purpose of the meeting was set forth. The gathering was then divided into five groups of about twenty persons, with each group supplied with a chairperson and a scribe who wrote down every suggestion. Discussion continued for half an hour when the groups came together to hear each group's report.

A list of over 100 suggestions was produced and later divided into four areas of study. Folks were invited to join whichever group they chose, and a study of needs and recommendations began and lasted for many months. Later these recommendations were collected and turned over to the Planning Commission. Some groups began to put their recommendations into practice. Two of these are still with us—Rally Day and the *Signpost*, which you hold in your hands.

It is important to note that this entire process was free and open to all citizens. We did not have small groups on the edges pushing their own agendas.

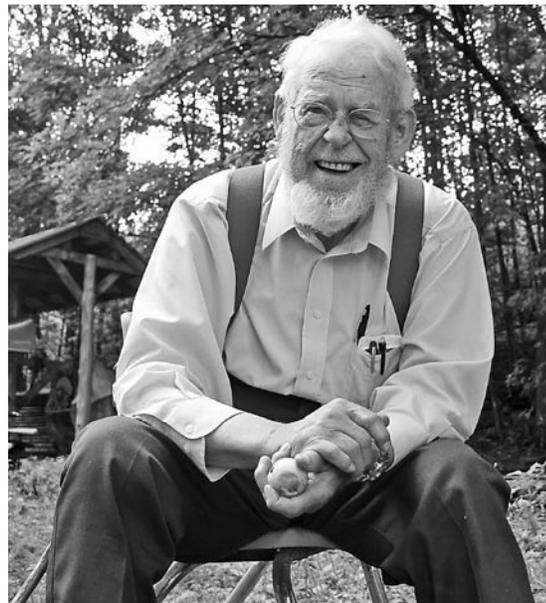
From those experiences a sense of total community began to emerge. One of the discoveries of the last quarter century is that we don't have to go out of town to seek social contact. We have several neighborhoods where folks gather on a regular schedule to socialize and share a pot luck meal. We have interest groups from the historical society to the snowmobile club and exercise classes. We have groups who have bonded together to watch their neighborhoods.

The foregoing serves us well. We have come to realize that East Montpelier is not just another “bedroom town” where people simply come to sleep and care not for the people or the countryside. It is not that we all think alike. Heaven forbid. BUT WE CAN THINK TOGETHER AS WE FACE THE FUTURE.

As we examine the threats that global warming may have to our normal, easy-going lifestyles, we may find it necessary to get back to “fundamentals.” Looking at East Montpelier in 2027 or 2037 with the usual measuring sticks—population, number of children in school, age range of population, highway usage, number of new houses built, average family income, etc.—will not be enough, since nobody knows now what changes caused by global warming will affect us.

The time has passed to intellectually accept the inevitability of climate change. The time to begin doing something about it in our own lives and in our town is now.

As individuals we can think of things we can do at our own locations. But what



Weston Cate

Continued on Page 3

about the town? Consider that you are likely by then to have a Town Manager and a small but effective police force. Your town office is not big enough now. Will you build a new one? Will there always be a volunteer Fire Department or will volunteerism dry up? Recognizing our town's aging population, are we ready to support public housing for the elderly?

Most of us have a hard time changing well-worn, personal habits. Some Vermonters take pride in making a habit change and stand a little straighter while others can't be bothered and simply "go with the flow."

It would be ever so pleasant and soothing if we could dream of our town a quarter of a century hence simply as a semi-rural landscape decorated with dirt roads and striking views, inhabited largely by people who were not frightened by having dirt under their fingernails. We need to do more than dream.

As most readers know, until 1848, Montpelier and East Montpelier were one town. My great-great-grandfather, Isaac Cate, was a town selectman at the time and opposed the decision to separate them. However the Legislature did its thing within a week without a vote of the residents. Today Montpelier cannot expand, yet we farmers who live on the hills of our town face no such limitation.

Yes, the past is prologue, and so in these changing times we can review and renew some of the parts of life from our past, the better to face our future.

—Wes Cate

Editors' Note: Dave Coburn has just "retired" from the Signpost staff. He has been part of the Signpost longer than any other current staff member except for Sylvia Tosi. He brought this newsletter into the computer age, first by teaching himself to do the layout on computer, and then later by working with Jennifer Boyer to create the Signpost Website at www.emsignpost.com. Dave has been both an anchor and one who kept the Signpost sailing forward in a world of change. We have appreciated his hard work, and are forever grateful for his generosity.

Rob Chickering

I believe that life in East Montpelier in 2027 will be noticeably different than it is today, primarily due to reduced supplies of fossil fuels and global warming mitigation. I predict that a gallon of gasoline or diesel fuel in 2027 will cost \$15. We will have public bus transportation through the village to Montpelier and Barre. Nearly all our kids will ride the school bus to an elementary school shared with Calais and to U-32. Many town residents will be carpooling, riding bicycles, driving electric vehicles, or walking. We'll get more exercise. Increased concern about carbon dioxide emissions will favor transport that has a low impact on global warming.



Rob Chickering

Dramatically higher transportation costs will profoundly affect our local economy. We won't be buying goods from China or food from California. East Montpelier's abundant agricultural land will produce foods for our townspeople and others in central Vermont. Many more of us will have our own gardens. The demand will be great for new local businesses to provide all kinds of items that we have been importing from far away.

We'll have less "stuff" and more community, becoming more dependent on each other. New needs will bring us together as a town. We won't always agree, of course. We already have a great community base. Perhaps our biggest challenge will be from a lot of other folks, attracted by our fine agricultural land, abundant water, relatively cool temperatures, and available firewood, wanting to live here with us.

Continued on Page 4

Local Author Remembers Jean Cate's Travels

Jean Cate, founder of the Signpost, made several exotic foreign excursions with her well-traveled sister Dorothy. Dorothy Conlon has written a book of travel memoirs, *At Home in the World*, which includes a chapter about their 1986 trip together to Japan. Other destinations Dorothy writes about span the globe, from Bolivia to Bhutan, Tanzania to Thailand, and more. Several chapters relate volunteer projects, including a 2005 visit to Nicaragua sponsored by Planting Hope, on which Dorothy was the only non-Vermonter. The book will appear in mid-September.

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Burr Morse

In 2027, I sure would like it if agriculture were strong. Not that I have anything against big farms, but I'd like it if farms were small again. Either producing milk or growing things to power cars with. I think that would be great. I would hope that we wouldn't have any more houses than we have right now, and a little bit of green industry. Who knows? Maybe farms would be growing sheep for wool and the woolen industry would come back. And I hope my business would still be here cranking out maple syrup, and that we'd keep making cross-country skiers happy.

I would hope that water from Montpelier Spring is being bottled in East Montpelier, and that it is a thriving business. I would hope that the absolutely worst intersection in the history of traffic, which is the intersection of Routes 2 and 14, would have been fixed.

Tony Klein

In 2027, we see that our existing farms are thriving and that they have been joined by numerous small specialty agricultural enterprises. E. Montpelier is now able to provide 10% of our communities food needs year round. Townspeople have been investing in their own renewable energy generation and have reduced utility power consumption by 25%.

The new village center has been completed. Along with the new town offices and fire department, senior housing and affordable housing for young families has attracted increased growth. New shops to fill the needs of the increased local population are thriving. Our schools are now full, thanks to our growth and our ability to attract tuition-paying students to U-32, which has increased its reputation as a magnet school specializing in the fine and performing arts. Finally, tax increases have been stabilized. And through all the changes in the twenty years, one thing remains the same: E. Montpelier is a wonderful place to live because of all the wonderful people that still live here.

Ginny Burley

In 2027, there will still be an elementary school in each town, and that school will continue to be the center of the community. The school will be a hub for additional town activities, such as senior meals, which serve the communities and bring the generations together. The town schools and the union school

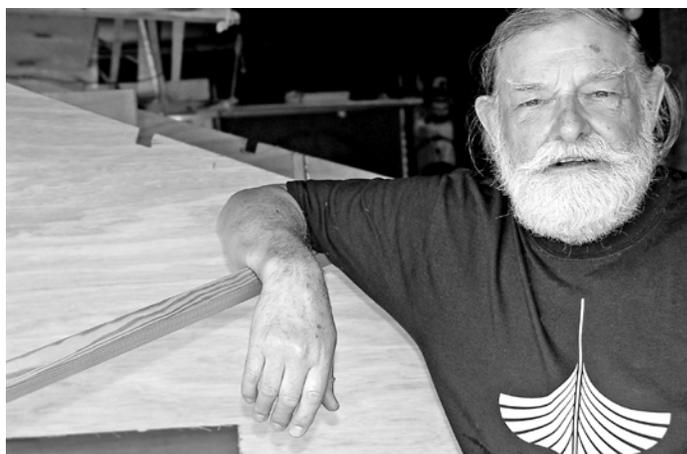
will have activities for all ages and be sites for lifelong learning. Schools will offer year-round and extended-day activities to help working families. Distance learning and technology will be widely utilized to expand opportunities for students and connect them to a global community. The high school will include experiential learning, internships, and college-level work. There will be fewer supervisory unions and fewer school boards. Some of the local schools will combine and share certain grade levels in order to maintain optimal class size, but none will be closed—just rearranged. There will be more competition from charter schools, home schools, and private schools. People will grumble about their school taxes but support their local schools!

Edward Day: East Montpelier, 27 August 2027

President Tony Klein declared today, from the new White House at Powder Horn Glen, that the center of the national government would shift to East Montpelier.

His announcement comes on the heels of reports that several cabinet secretaries had already moved to the Green Mountain State. When questioned about his move, Secretary of Agriculture Burr Morse said, "This is where the good stuff is grown, so why not be in the midst of it?"

Senate Majority Leader Peter Welch revealed that plans are being drawn to expand the Old Meeting House on Center Road to replace the former Capitol in Washington. The old Capitol site will become an amusement park that developers hope will bring tour-



Edward Day

Continued on Page 8

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Rally Day, continued from Page 1

visit the **Cozy Corner Cafe** for tea, games, conversation, and **Live Music** featuring Colin McCaffrey, Susan McKenney, Hilari Farrington, and Benedict Koehler.

Remember to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the **Onion River Food Shelf**. Adopt a road intersection and Jean Cate Community Fund's **Daffodil Project** will provide a bag of bulbs for you to plant.

Bike Skills Course—Get safety tips, ride a fun obstacle course for all ages; then head to **Bike Decorating** to embellish your ride before joining the **Parade**. Ride, march, enter a float, or cheer for our **Citizen of the Year!**

Lunch Time: Good local food; benefits the school lunch program's new Salad Bar. Then, from 1:00 until the cow does its "thing," **Cow Plop Bingo!** Where will the plop fall? Pick your square, buy a chance to win, and support the Playground Renewal Project.

Memory Hour: Share stories of bygone "Winter Roads" at Four Corners Schoolhouse.

Join a **Family Soccer Game**, or **Xtreme Frisbee Match**. Go on a **Conservation Walk** with Nona Estrin of the Trails Committee. Or how about a group **Bike Ride?** Learn some mechanical safety checks, review safe riding rules, then head out.

For something less strenuous, make music and **Sing-Along** with Ellen Leonard, of AllTogetherNow. Then carpool to the **History Tour of Cutler Cemetery** with Elliott Morse.

Hungry again? Come to the **Barbecue Supper** and support our Fire Department, starting at 5:00. While you eat, place your final bids at the **Signpost Silent Auction** to benefit our free newsletter.

Variety Show: Gather in the gym and cheer for your talented neighbors. See what they'll do in front of an audience!

Many thanks to all who make Rally Day special. For details, see our **Schedule** mailed with your August tax bill and posted at www.emsignpost.com, or call Matt Curtis at 223-7403.

—Deborah Fillion



Rally Day: Activities for all ages! Come to the Elementary School for the pancake breakfast and stay all day to the evening Variety Show!

Thank you to these *Signpost* Supporters

Contributions are always welcome.

Please mail them to PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Gus & Alberta Pacini | Marion Palmer |
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TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00-5:00,
Fri 9:00-12:00

Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Lynn Commo
eastmontatct@comcast.net

Town Administrator: Lisa Rice
Mon-Fri 9:00-2:00
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Chief Lister: Rosie Cueto
Mon-Fri 9:00-11:30

Zoning Administrator: Bruce Johnson
Tues & Thurs 11:00-2:00
eastmontza@comcast.net

First Constable/Animal Control Officer:
Sandy Conti 479-3169

Health Officer/2nd Animal Control Officer: Elliot Morse
223-6279

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes
223-1651

Selectboard

Tom Brazier, Chair
Stephen Jerome, Tracy Phillips

Planning Commission

Rob Chickering, Chair

Lyn Blackwell	Tim Carver
Mark Lane	Rick Hopkins
Jack Pauly	Kim Watson
Ken Santor	Carol Welch

Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis, Chair

Sandy Conti	Jeff Cueto
Steve Kappel	Cliff King
Mark Lane	Gray Ricker
Jane Grinde	

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair 229-0826
gburley@u32.org

Sue Chickering 229-6232
dragonfly@ezcloud.net

Elementary School

Marlene Betit, Chair 223-6028
mabetit@aol.com

Jan Aldrich, Vice-chair 229-0406
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com

Julie Roachat 223-1423
vtseven@yahoo.com

John Audy
vtfiredog@comcast.net 223-8474

Andrea Colnes
alc@sover.net 223-8474

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Land Transfers

- Frederick B. & Granthia L. Preston to Granthia L. Preston, 9 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Jamie A. & Jamie L. Forrend to Betty Fortin, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Daniel Perry & Brittany Thresher to Daniel & Brittany Perry, 1 acre & dwelling, County Rd.
- Cummings Farm, LLC to Catherine M. Buni, 1.13 acres, Cummings Rd.
- Vermont Land Trust to Town of East Montpelier, recreational trail easement on 45.7 acres, North St.
- Town of East Montpelier to Fairmont Farm, Inc., Lease Land rights on 75 acres, US2
- Fairmont Farm, Inc. to Vermont Land Trust, Inc., et al, easement on 159 acres, US2
- Fairmont Farm, Inc. to Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, et al, easement on 159 acres, US2
- Madeline S. Cutler to Joane C. LaPerle, Robert R. Cutler Jr. & Francis C. Cutler, Life Estate, Cutler Hts.
- Robert G. Wagner to Thomas R. Grenier & Pauline N. Shepard, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- A & W Artesian Well Company to Patrick Malone, 1.6 acres & building, Codling Rd.
- Pamela Heffernan to Jared Lamere, 3.49 acres, Johnson Rd.
- Katherine M. Hull to Karen S. Liimatainen, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Jason D. Giroux to Jason D. Giroux & Rachel L. Metayer, 1 acre, Fair Rd.
- Fecteau Residential, Inc. to Rachel L. Metayer & Jason D. Giroux, mobile home, Fair Rd.
- Mary Ann Rob to Alexander C. & Katrina Marie Schulte Rob, 2.2 acres & dwelling, Center Rd.

Births

- Kaleb Joe Farnsworth, born May 20, 2007, son of Jessyca Rose Manning & Thomas Mack Farnsworth
- Sawyer John Glaser-West, born June 5, 2007, son of Christine Ashley West & Christopher John Glaser
- Joseph David Clark, born June 12, 2007, son of Amber Lyn Gartner

Marriages

- Richard Joseph LaFrance & Elizabeth Carl Atkins, June 12, 2007
- William Gardiner Bissell & Katharine Clark, June 15, 2007
- Jason Charles Deforge & Talia Anne Lavigne, June 23, 2007

- Joseph Leonard Metz & Melanie Jean Guleserian, July 7, 2007

SELECTBOARD

June 25, 2007

- Approved Tim Carver's access with an additional 700 ft.; northeast side of Casavant Rd.
- Approved Larry Brown's five access permits.
- Approved Mark Lane's agricultural access permit.
- Appointed Lisa Rice to the Wrightsville Reservoir Recreation Board.
- Voted to have the Town pay for series of rabies shots for Health Officer Elliot Morse.
- Granted the Road Management Team request to start a 10-hr./4-day work week for summer. If more productive to work the regular five-day week when Muddy Brook Rd. project commences, Board and road team will revisit the request.
- Robyn Hall, collector of delinquent taxes, presented list of delinquent taxpayers.
- Rob Chickering presented a draft of the revised Zoning Regulation. Chickering extended his availability to the Board to address any questions, reactions, or concerns they may have, noting that the goal is to have a public hearing this fall. The Selectboard would then conduct a hearing for final adoption. Chickering, Acting Zoning Administrator, would like to end that responsibility as of Aug. 1.
- Excess Weight Permits were approved and signed by the Selectboard for Lajeunesse, Moelleur, and Codling Brothers.
- Approved the quote from Fothergill, Segale and Valley for the six-month, June 30, 2007 audit and fiscal year June 30, 2008 audit.

July 9, 2007

- Elizabeth Killian presented petition regarding traffic issues on US2 which included concerns about speeding, the condition of the roads, and vehicle weights. Board noted the US2 & VT14 and the VT14S bridge reconstruction work is scheduled for spring 2008 and summer 2009 respectively.
- Jean Vissering and Michelle McFadden from the East Village Committee presented a sketch plan of the proposed landscaping after the US2 & VT14 intersection project is completed.
- Board discussed the Boulder Ridge Road residents' letter concerning the town taking over the maintenance of their road.

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

- Attorney Bruce Bjornland recommended putting up land on Pine Ridge Rd. for Tax Sale for delinquent taxes.
- Regarding the hiring of a Road Foreman, the board decided to continue to use the Road Management Team of Frank Campbell and Gordon Blow. Campbell indicated that he felt things were working very well. The board decided that, since the Road Management Team was working, the position of Road Foreman would be withdrawn, and a fourth road crew member would be hired.
- The Road Management Team will monitor a manure spill situation on Vincent Flats Road.

PLANNING COMMISSION

May 31, 2007

- Passed unanimously a motion to approve a Change of Use request without conditions as submitted by Marcie Osborne for auto repair and inspection facility in part of the old A&W Artesian Well Co. building.
- Addressed two zoning rewrite topics: setback waivers and plat recording requirements.
- Made plans for further review and public hearings for the revised zoning regulations.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

May 15, 2007

- Dimensional variance approved for Peter & Jane Burroughs' residential addition at 305 VT14N because all five variance criteria were met.
- VTrans requested use of the Coburn Road Wetlands Mitigation Site as a test site for the use of manufactured topsoil (in this case, short paper fibers, a byproduct of paper manufacturing processes) in place of topsoil generally used to replace missing organic material when artificial wetlands are created. Members questioned the "environmentally benign" nature of short paper fibers, but were in favor of allowing the proposed test.

Directed the ZA to request copies of any reports generated as a result of the study.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

May 17, 2007

- Ellen Knoedler made a presentation on the EMES Library.
- Carole Freeman presented to the board EMES the 2006 NECAP Assessment Results. EMES made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2006.
- Voted to hire a part-time summer position, approximately 8 hrs./day, five days a week, for 8 to 10 weeks, to assist with grounds upkeep.
- Voted to table the Action Plan.
- Voted to hire Amy Apgar for the preschool position.
- Voted to hire Suzanne Klinefelter for the math position.
- Agreed that EMES kitchen no longer available for What's For Dinner.

U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

May 16, 2007

- David Bazis and Michael Horowitz presented the current offerings in the Design & Technology Education Department.
- Set June 13, 2008, as the date for the Class of 2008 graduation.
- Accepted the resignations of Michelle Ksepka, Paraeducator, and Nancy Mercer, 0.2 FTE Social Studies.
- Approved the appointments of Jennifer Stanton, Custodian, and Jon Antonucci, 0.1 FTE Social Studies.
- Voted to offer the position of Guidance & Counseling Director to Lisa LaPlante.

June 6, 2007

- Voted to accept with regret the resignations and retirements of Mark Picchette, Bonnie Destakasi, Dan Boomhower, and Diane M. Hall.

- Approved the reduction in force recall of Jon Antonucci and Chris Blackburn.
- Voted to appoint Jessica Smetanna 0.9 FTE English Teacher.
- Accepted the non-bargaining unit contracts and salaries for 2007-08 contract year.
- Work on a WCSU Strategic Plan will begin over the summer.
- A facilities subcommittee is revisiting the issue of relocating the WCSU Central Office on the U-32 grounds.
- Tim Flynn presented a Special Education Department Review.

FUNDING REQUEST COMMITTEE NEEDS MEMBERS



The Town of East Montpelier is looking for citizens to join the Funding Request Committee. This committee meets once per year in late September or early October to determine which local organizations will receive funding from our town. The committee's recommendation is voted on as an article on Town Meeting Day. Please consider this important task as a contribution to our town. Contact Lisa Rice, Town Administrator, for details. 223-3313, ext. 205.

Kevin E. Hudson

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Pager: 826-5313

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ist business to the decaying city. One former Congressman commented that that means there will be no change in the site's use.

Some 750,000 government bureaucrats are expected to move to East Montpelier, creating something of a housing crunch, since a law, passed several years ago, forbade farmland from being used for anything but agriculture. Office complexes will be built underground, and the old international high-speed rail terminal on County Road will be expanded, since aircraft have been abolished.

When asked the reason for the shift in the capitol, President Klein said, "Why stay in D.C., where even the winter temperature never drops below 110? Since East Montpelier established total-climate-control, resulting in perfect temperatures year round—and it only rains at night, you know—that's the place to be." No other region has authority to apply that technology, developed at the East Montpelier Institute of Extraordinary Studies.

Sylvia Tosi

Living and working in the vicinity of the Village of East Montpelier for over 40 years, my projection is that it will see many changes in this area in the next 20 years.

There will be sidewalks along Route 2 on both sides of the road. Village residents will have access to a sewage plant built across the road from Dudley's in the field this side of the Winooski River.

Dudley's General Store will have expanded and the gas pumps will be non-existent out in front of the store. The kind of fuel for cars will have changed to biofuels or cars will be battery-sustained.

The Town Municipal Office will move to a new building—perhaps adjacent to the new fire station located down on Route 2 to Plainfield, just about a half mile or so from the intersection of Routes 2 and 14.

The present Town Municipal Office will become a Town Library and the East Montpelier Historical Society. I'm sure the Historical Society would love this!

Washington Electric will be generating power by windpower as well as by hydropower.

Senior Housing units will be available up off Quaker Hill Road, behind the presently existing houses, since septic will be available for such a development by this time.

Of course, these are only thoughts of the future. Like over 20 years ago, I was on a committee that gave projections of what the town could be in another 20 years. Some of these now exist, like the trails for walking, a town newspaper, and our Rally Day for getting our townspeople together. Though my projections seem almost impossible at the moment, it is not so far-fetched that any one of them could happen sooner than you realize.

Ross Hazel

I would like to see in 20 years an even stronger sense of community based on interdependence. The belief that we would all be better off if we would support one another rather than if we were in competition for available resources would raise the

quality of life for all of us. It seems clear that rising energy costs and climate change are the two conditions that will heavily influence our lives in the future. It's an understatement to say, I do not think human nature is going to change much in the next 20 years, so we are still going to have the three basic types of people that we have today. There is the "it's everybody for themselves" group, who keep their cards close to their chest. Then there is the "we're just doing the best we can" group, living day to day, and, finally, there is the "we are all in the same boat" group, who believe we had better work together. If the first group dominates, our lives in the future life will become nastier for all of us, even for the first group. The second group isn't planning ahead, and the last group, in times that are less challenging, might create a community that was stagnant and without vitality. Most of us belong to all three groups to some extent. But these are challenging times and I think cooperation will be the key to a better quality of life for all.

Richard Linton Brock

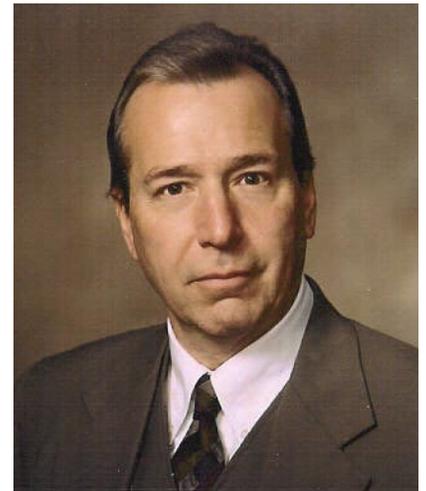
Futurist predictions are notoriously dangerous. Despite the dangers, here are mine.

I predict that East Montpelier in 2027 will be warmer by a few degrees, have more population, and retain its essentially rural character. The basis for these predictions is that current population trends are upward, although not quickly, and climate does appear to be warming. Because of our zoning and because East Montpelier has upwards of 10 percent of its land area "conserved" against future development by various mechanisms, our rural character will probably be preserved.

I predict that East Montpelier in 2027 will be less neighborly and more suburban. The basis for these predictions is that more people will bring some more anonymity. We will be less likely to know one another. Walking down a country road, if you meet someone, you say "hello." Walking down a city street, you do not. The new houses and people in town seem to belong to those who can afford to live here and work elsewhere. This is a definition of suburban land use.

However, I do predict that in 2027 East Montpelier will still be East Montpelier—a community or communities of people, sitting on a wonderful and beautiful spot on the globe and living in a peaceful and neighborly way. East Montpelier will be a nice place to live and, if you can do it, work.

I hope I live in East Montpelier in 2027!



Richard Linton Brock

A BUSY YEAR AT EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY

East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) staff, parents, volunteers, and board have had a busy and productive school year, and look forward to another. A few highlights from the past school year and expectations for the next:

- The Educational Support Team (EST) made up of existing staff was created to assist classroom teachers and staff in developing a plan to support every child, including those who may be struggling to meet the standards as well as those who require additional challenge.
- A variety of outstanding art and musical events occurred throughout the year.
- The Parent Teachers Neighbor Organization (PTNO) held several events throughout the year, including a Mud Season carnival and penny raffle to raise funds for new playground equipment to meet Vermont State standards. The PTNO has raised close to \$10,000.
- The PTNO provided a full week of staff appreciation events including a car wash, goodies, thankyou notes, and garden flowers from parents and children.
- The Facility Committee continues to work towards utilizing software at U-32 to assist with the scheduling of daily maintenance and future building needs.
- The roof replacement over the grades 5-6 wing is complete, and we expect state reimbursement for 30 percent. John Audy facilitated the project.
- A full schedule of after-school sessions and summer camps were planned and operated by Community Connections.
- After review of five different programs by the WCSU Math Committee a new math program known as "Investigations" was adopted and will be phased in over two years.
- The WCSU Executive Committee began the process of clarifying and articulating roles and responsibilities for WCSU administrators, principals, local boards, executive committee, full boards, and standing and ad hoc committees.
- On August 23, the School Board Negotiation Committee and the Teachers' Association Committee will hold a joint dinner to establish guidelines, process, and dates as negotiations get underway.
- Curriculum at EMES and the Washington Central Supervisory Union District (WCSU) continues to be reviewed, enhanced, and standardized.
- The EMES Board is forming a committee to review the existing Facility Use Policy which outlines how community, business, and non-profit groups may use the school building.
- Transportation systems continue to be reviewed.

If you have questions or suggestions about EMES, please contact Principal Mitch Golub or any of your School Board members, listed on page 6 of this issue. Remember, back to school on August 28!

—Marlene Betit, EMES School Board Chair

UPDATED ZONING REGULATIONS READY FOR DISCUSSION

For more than three years, the East Montpelier Planning Commission has been holding two extra meetings per month to update and revise the town's zoning and subdivision regulations. Our "current" zoning regulations were adopted in 1982, and the subdivision regulations were last amended in 1974. The Planning Commission has often struggled to interpret regulations that were vague and out of date.

From the start, our goal was not to increase or decrease the level of zoning regulation but to clarify, specify, and make understandable the bylaws so that they could be implemented in a fair and consistent way for all townspeople, and to meet new state zoning requirements.

In 2003, the Commission was awarded a grant to hire a consultant to help with the writing of a draft update. Since the conclusion of the consultant's work in early 2005, the Planning Commission has been reviewing and fine-tuning this draft, sentence by sentence. Although all our meetings have always been open to the public, we are now reaching out to seek reactions and feedback from townspeople.

Copies of the draft regulation may be picked up at the town offices after September 4. The Planning Commission will hold a public forum at 7 p.m. on September 20, 2007, at the elementary school. A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on October 18, 2007, at the school. Following any modifications made subsequent to these meetings, the Planning Commission will present its recommended regulations to the Selectboard. At a later time the Selectboard will hold its public hearing.

For more information, call Rob Chickering, Chairperson, at 229-5005, or Rick Hopkins, Vice-Chair, at 229-4375.

—Rob Chickering

CHURCH BELLS



Old Brick Church
Angelo Tillas, Pastor
Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.
Phone: 223-1232



Old Meeting House
Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Pastor
Rev. David W. Connor, Assoc. Pastor
Worship & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Nursery care is available
Phone: 229-9593



Crossroads Christian Church
Rev. Bob Walton, Pastor
Worship and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Phone: 476-4843 & 229-9389

EAST VILLAGE COMMITTEE GOES OFFICIAL, INVITES INPUT

Since at least 2000, the Vermont Agency of Transportation has been planning an alternative to the dangerous intersection of Routes 2 and 14, east of Dudley's Store. A small group of interested town residents has been meeting for several years now to discuss and impact the design aspects of the state's planned new intersection. Jean Vissering has provided the group with leadership and landscaping expertise. Recently this group requested and was granted recognition as a town committee by the Selectboard.

The general objectives of the East Village Committee are to use the opportunity of state highway construction to enhance the appearance and attractiveness of East Village as a town center and to provide for pedestrian ways and appropriate vehicle parking. The group has met several times with Agency of Transportation officials, as well as representatives of the Old Brick Church, Washington Electric Co-op, and East Village property owners. The committee has also made presentations to the Selectboard and the Planning Commission.

Recently the committee proposed to the Selectboard that the town consider requesting Village Center designation from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. The designation would make the town and village property owners eligible for some types of grant funding for village improvement projects. The Selectboard held a town forum in July to obtain feedback from townspeople about the Village Center designation and has scheduled a second such meeting on September 12, 7 p.m., at the Elementary School.

Interested townspeople may call Jean Vissering at 223-3262 for information and a meeting schedule. —Rob Chickering

Town Exhibit Marks 140th Birthday

September 12, 2007, marks the 140th anniversary of the dedication of the church in North Montpelier. In mid-September the Town Office exhibit case will highlight the occasion with pictures and brief descriptions of the church, using some recently indexed pictures. We hope you'll stop in for a visit!

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OH, WHERE, OH, WHERE IS OUR OLD PAINTED CURTAIN?

The Historical Society's July meeting outlined the effort to find and restore the painted curtains that hung in town halls, Grange halls, and opera houses throughout Vermont. It reminded us that there was a painted curtain in the East Montpelier Town Hall. In all probability, it went to the dump when the hall was torn down in the '60s. But, then again, it might be stashed in someone's barn or attic. If you know of its fate, the Historical Society would love to hear from you.

If the actual curtain is no longer, there may be photographs taken at graduations or shows that would show what the curtain looked like. If anyone has one of these, the Historical Society would like to borrow it to copy. Contact Ann Ormsbee, at 223-5372, or David Coburn, at 223-6886 (email: dave.coburn@comcast.net).

FUN AT THE OLD MEETING HOUSE

Please join us for fall festivities at the Old Meeting House on Sunday, September 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a free outdoor dance party with Guagua, the Burlington-based Latin jazz band, originators of "psychotropical" jazz, named for the euphoric effect of guitar, piano, and horn melodies layered over tropical African, Caribbean, and Brazilian polyrhythms.

The OMH will cook up a scrumptious lunch of grilled offerings, both meat and vegetarian, as well bountiful side dishes, salads and delectable desserts, all at reasonable prices.

There will also be a sale of baked goods, plants to adorn your windowsills or place in your perennial beds, and the best of the season's vegetables and fruits.

Everyone is welcome to the Old Meeting House's Gathering Sunday service at 9:30 a.m., prior to the festivities. September 9 is the first day of Sunday School this fall. Children may attend Sunday School at the Parish House during the second half of the church service.

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LOOKING FOR A SITE FOR GOOD LIVING



Members of the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative are prospecting for a possible site for future senior housing. What are we looking for? A site that has ample water and sufficient septic capability for a number of units, which is still to be determined. A plus would be proximity to services and on blacktop. If you have a bright idea about or knowledge of such a possibility, please con-

tact Michael Crane at Crane Associates, 802-657-3720, or Austin Cleaves, chair of EMSLI, at 802-229-5223. Also, note that land donations for creating permanently affordable senior housing may result in significant tax benefits to the donor.

EMSLI members meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 at the Town Office. You're welcome to join in and become a member working on this senior housing project.



East Montpelier resident Patricia O'Regan, a U.S. Tennis Association-member and Physical Education teacher, volunteered her time and equipment for two weeks of free summer tennis lessons for lucky local children. In all, more than a dozen East Montpelier kids, age 5 to 11, were able to give tennis a try, thanks to Tricia's expertise and community spirit! Meanwhile, O'Regan, who teaches physical education at Waterville, Fayston and Hardwick has even more to feel good about; this season, her team, 3.5 Team Advantage has won the state flight, and, at press time, was on their way to the finals at the divisional play offs in Conn.

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

All East Montpelier residents are entitled to a free library card!

Tap the Hidden Web with Your Library Card

There are millions of answers online—but which are the right ones? Anyone can put up a website. But the Kellogg-Hubbard brings you and your children answers that you can trust, from online sources that are safe and authoritative. It puts the best online resources in the world at your fingertips around the clock, from the comfort of your own home. Your library card and a home computer are all you will need.

How do you start? Just go to www.kellogghubbard.org and have your library card handy. You can find a prestigious genealogy database called Heritage Quest Online just by clicking the link at the top of the web page. If you click on the Vermont Online Library link, you'll find full text periodical articles updated daily, the Business and Company Resource Center, the Health and Wellness Resource Center including alternative health information, and a wealth of child-friendly databases to help your children with school projects. For a full description and detailed instructions on accessing all of these online treasures, stop in at the library and ask for the flyer, "Tap the Hidden Web." We'll also be glad to mail one to you if you phone us at 223-3338.



Martha Holden to Speak

at the Library Sept. 24 at 7 p.m.

East Montpelier's own Martha Holden will be giving a fascinating talk on her experiences in Sudan. The talk will begin at 7 p.m. in the Library's Hayes Room. Don't miss it!

Master Gardeners Program, Wed., Sept. 12th at 7 p.m.

"Plant with Fall Appeal," presented by Mark Starrett, Vermont Master Gardener. Co-sponsored by the Washington-Orange County Chapter of the Vermont Master Gardeners.

Past Loves Day Celebration, Mon., Sept. 17th at 7-8:30 p.m.

Guest speakers will be Kate Harper and Leon Marasco, authors of the new book, *If Only I Could Tell You...Where Past Loves & Current Intimacy Meet*. Refreshments served.

Library Information

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (Children's Library closes at 5:30); Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (Labor Day through June 1st). Closed Sundays.

Website: www.kellogghubbard.org

Phone: 223-3338

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1st & 3rd Tues	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Adv. Comm.	2nd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Thurs	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Mon	6:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tues	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assoc.	2nd Wed	7:00	Four Corners School
Wastewater Advisory Committee	1st & 3rd Thurs	6:30	Town Office
East Mont. Senior Living Initiative	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30	Town Office

NOTICES

August 28: First day of school at EMES

September 3: Town Offices closed for Labor Day

September 12: Forum on the Village Center, 7 p.m. at EMES

September 20: Forum on draft of zoning regulations revisions, 7 p.m. at EMES

October 18: Public hearing on the revisions of the zoning regulations, 7 p.m. at EMES

November 15: First Installment of property taxes due by 5 p.m.

EVENTS

RALLY DAY: September 8, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at EMES and other locations. Take part in this East Montpelier tradition!

FALL FESTIVITIES AT THE OLD MEETING HOUSE: September 9, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and enjoy free music by the latin jazz band, Guagua, while you shop for plants, produce, and baked goods, and your choice of food for lunch.

Talk by **MARTHA HOLDEN ON HER VISIT TO SUDAN**, September 24, 7 p.m. at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: OCTOBER 1, 2007, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, theploofs@hotmail.com

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Volume XVIII, Number One
September/October 2007

Printed on recycled paper with soy based ink